



NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI*

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

KC MAN SENTENCED IN SERIES OF ARMED ROBBERIES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced today for his role in a conspiracy that involved a multi-million dollar series of robberies at several jewelry stores and other businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Nathaniel Kenny, 34, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to 22 years, 6 months in prison without parole. The court also ordered **Kenny** to pay \$1,131,144 in restitution to Meierotto's Midwest Jewelry. **Kenny** was found to be a career offender, Graves said, based upon his two prior convictions for crimes of violence.

Kenny was among four defendants convicted by a federal jury on March 7, 2001. He was found guilty of one count of conspiracy, one count of robbery affecting interstate commerce, and one count of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence. Those charges, Graves said, were in relation to the February 24, 1997 armed robbery of Meierotto's Midwest Jewelry, 4311 Northeast Vivion Road, Kansas City, Mo. Approximately \$1.1 million worth of jewelry was stolen in that robbery.

Kenny was among nine defendants indicted by a federal grand jury on January 4, 2000 and in a superseding indictment on July 18, 2000, Graves said, on a series of charges related to a conspiracy to commit 11 armed robberies of jewelry stores and other commercial businesses in the Kansas City metro area since 1996. Three defendants pleaded guilty prior to trial, and four, including **Kenny**, were convicted by a trial jury on March 7, 2001. One defendant was acquitted and one defendant remains a fugitive.

According to Graves, evidence presented at trial showed that **Kenny** and three co-defendants had various roles with each other and with other defendants in planning or executing robberies or fencing stolen goods taken in a series of armed robberies in the Kansas City area

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since late 1996. The crimes charged in the case included the holdups of five jewelry stores and six other commercial businesses, and the attempted robbery of a credit union.

Michael Hatcher, 45, of Grandview, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy, two counts of armed robbery affecting interstate commerce, and two counts of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence. On January 3, 2002, **Hatcher** was sentenced to 42 years, 6 months in prison without parole.

Angelo Porrello, 74, and his son, **Joseph Anthony Porrello**, 32, both of Kansas City, Mo., were both found guilty of one count of conspiracy, two counts of armed robbery affecting interstate commerce, two counts of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence and two counts of money laundering. On January 11, 2001, **Angelo Porrello** was sentenced to 39 years in prison without parole. On February 28, 2002, **Joseph Porrello** was sentenced to 35 years, 1 month in prison without parole.

The same jury acquitted a fifth defendant, **Michael McCarthy**, 47, of Kansas City, Mo., on single counts of conspiracy, armed robbery affecting interstate commerce and carrying a firearm in a crime of violence.

Three other defendants who were indicted in the case pleaded guilty to various charges prior to trial.

On January 24 and 25, 2001, respectively, **Karl Carter** and **Keith Rayford** each pleaded guilty to three federal charges: one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery affecting interstate commerce and violate federal firearms laws, one count of armed robbery affecting interstate commerce, and one count of use of a firearm in a crime of violence. On June 14, 2001, **Carter**, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced to 12 years in prison without parole. The court also ordered **Carter** to pay \$2,417,903.11 in restitution. On June 14, 2001, **Rayford**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced to six years and six months in prison without parole. The court also ordered **Rayford** to pay \$1,3277,671.76 in restitution.

On March 28, 2001, **Torin Riley**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty. On April 17, 2001, **Riley** was sentenced to 6 years, 6 months in prison without parole.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., and Overland Park, Kan., police departments, and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation
